

Chapter 3: The Party and the Mystery

Nick's Invitation: Nick Carraway receives a rare formal invitation to one of Jay Gatsby's legendary weekend parties, unlike most guests who simply show up uninvited. The event is a dazzling display of wealth and spectacle.

Extravagance and Rumors: Gatsby's mansion is transformed into a carnival of excess—live orchestras, endless food, flowing champagne, and guests dressed to impress. Despite the grandeur, Gatsby himself remains an enigma. Guests gossip wildly: some claim he's a German spy, others say he killed a man, or that he's an Oxford graduate. No one seems to know the truth.

Searching for Gatsby: Nick reconnects with Jordan Baker, and together they explore the mansion in search of their elusive host. In the library, they meet a drunken man with “owl-eyed” spectacles who marvels that Gatsby's books are real but untouched—hinting at the performative nature of Gatsby's life.

Meeting the Man Himself: Eventually, Nick and Jordan are seated at a table with a charming, well-mannered young man who introduces himself as Jay Gatsby. Nick is taken aback by Gatsby's polished speech and his habit of calling people “old sport.” Gatsby's charisma is undeniable, but his persona feels carefully constructed.

Gatsby's Detachment: Unlike his guests, Gatsby doesn't drink and remains emotionally distant from the revelry. He watches from afar, more host than participant, reinforcing the idea that the parties serve a deeper purpose.

Nick and Jordan: Nick begins to develop feelings for Jordan Baker, though he's wary of her dishonesty—she once cheated in a golf tournament. He reflects on his own integrity, claiming to be “one of the few honest people” he knows, setting up a contrast between his values and the moral ambiguity of those around him.

Chapter 4: The Truth and the Request

Gatsby's Guest List: Nick opens the chapter with a detailed list of Gatsby's partygoers, emphasizing their elite status and superficiality. The names read like a social register, underscoring the performative nature of Gatsby's world.

Gatsby's Story: Gatsby invites Nick to lunch in New York and attempts to dispel the rumors by sharing his life story. He claims to be the son of wealthy Midwestern parents (though he says he's from San Francisco), educated at Oxford, a decorated war hero, and a collector of European treasures. Nick is skeptical, but Gatsby offers a war medal from Montenegro and a photograph from Oxford as proof.

Meyer Wolfsheim: At lunch, Gatsby introduces Nick to Meyer Wolfsheim, a shady character rumored to have fixed the 1919 World Series. Wolfsheim's presence hints at Gatsby's possible involvement in organized crime and bootlegging, casting doubt on the legitimacy of his wealth.

Jordan's Revelation: Later, Jordan Baker shares the true story of Gatsby and Daisy. In 1917, Gatsby was a young military officer stationed in Louisville, where he and Daisy fell deeply in love. After Gatsby went to war, Daisy was heartbroken but eventually married Tom Buchanan, a man of immense wealth. On the eve of her wedding, Daisy received a letter—likely from Gatsby—and tried to cancel the ceremony, but was persuaded to go through with it.

Gatsby's Obsession: Gatsby purchased his mansion across the bay from Daisy's home, hoping she would notice him. His lavish parties were designed to attract her attention, though she never attended.

The Request: Too nervous to approach Daisy himself, Gatsby asks Nick to invite her to tea at his cottage—without revealing that Gatsby will be there. Gatsby hopes this quiet reunion will rekindle their lost romance and set his dream in motion.

Chapter 5: The Reunion and the Dream

Gatsby's Nervous Anticipation: Gatsby is desperate to reunite with Daisy and asks Nick to arrange a tea at his cottage. He's so anxious about the meeting that he offers Nick a suspicious business opportunity as a thank-you, which Nick declines.

Rain and Awkwardness: On the day of the tea, it rains heavily, mirroring Gatsby's emotional tension. When Daisy arrives, Gatsby is so nervous he nearly leaves. The initial reunion is painfully awkward, but once Nick leaves them alone, their old affection begins to resurface.

Emotional Overload: Gatsby is overwhelmed by Daisy's presence. He's waited five years for this moment, and now that it's real, he's visibly shaken. Daisy is moved as well, and the emotional intensity of their reunion is palpable.

Tour of the Mansion: Gatsby takes Daisy and Nick to his mansion, showing off his wealth in hopes of impressing her. He proudly displays his luxurious possessions, especially his collection of imported shirts—Daisy cries, possibly out of regret or longing for what might have been.

The Green Light Fades: Nick observes that the green light at the end of Daisy's dock, once a symbol of Gatsby's unreachable dream, now seems less significant. The fantasy is becoming reality, and Gatsby's idealized vision of Daisy begins to collide with the real woman.

Chapter 6: The Past and the Illusion

Gatsby's True Origins: The chapter reveals Gatsby's real name—James Gatz—and his humble beginnings in North Dakota. At 17, he reinvented himself, determined to escape poverty and become someone great. His transformation began when he worked for Dan Cody, a wealthy copper magnate, whose lifestyle inspired Gatsby's dream.

Dan Cody's Influence: Gatsby served as Cody's personal assistant, absorbing the habits of the rich. Though he didn't inherit Cody's fortune, the experience shaped Gatsby's ambition and his desire to craft a new identity.

Tom's Suspicion Grows: Tom Buchanan becomes increasingly suspicious of Gatsby and his relationship with Daisy. He attends one of Gatsby's parties with her, but both find the crowd distasteful. Tom mocks Gatsby's background and implies his wealth is illegitimate.

Daisy's Disillusionment: Daisy is unimpressed by Gatsby's party. She finds the atmosphere vulgar and the guests lacking refinement. Gatsby is devastated by her reaction, realizing that his dream of winning Daisy through wealth may not be enough.

Gatsby's Obsession: Despite Daisy's discomfort, Gatsby remains fixated on the idea of recreating the past. He wants Daisy to renounce her love for Tom and return to

the way things were in Louisville. Nick warns him that he can't repeat the past, but Gatsby insists, "Can't repeat the past? Why of course you can!"